



Dive Log

January Newsletter

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014

Activities

- Jan. 16: Speaker Ken Mostello Dive Trip
- Feb. 20: Speakers Kevin Brook/ Mike Michaelson Dive Trip
- March 20: Speaker Amy Parker Express Travel
- March 8-9: Sea Rovers
- April 17: Marc/ Christine Presentation on Scuba Equipment
- May 15: Speaker Michael Lodise Back Scatter East
- June 19: Speaker Jeff Ryan and Dan Bradley
- July 13: Chicks Day Stage Fort Park
- July 17: TBD
- July: Fish Count date TBD
- Aug. 16: Lobster Fest Kevin Brook's House
- Aug. 21: TBD
- Sept. 18: TBD
- Oct. 16: TBD
- Oct. 26: Pumpkin Carving at the Kadaras'
- Nov. 20: TBD

An African Safari—Through the Lens

Ken Mostello will be presenting photos this month from two safari trips he did to Africa. The first trip was with his wife, Michelle, to Tanzania during the Great Migration in early 2011. The second was a combination white shark expedition and safari with his daughter, Elise, to South Africa in 2012. Ken will be talking about his experiences in both countries, pointing out contrasts in the wildlife safaris, and the diverse cultures of the people they encountered. The Tanzania photos include vistas of the Serengeti captured from a hot-air balloon at tree top level,

panoramas of the Ngorongoro Crater, life inside a Masai village, and images of Olduvai Gorge where the famous Lucy skeleton was uncovered in the 1970's.

The South Africa photos present a different safari experience. There are vistas from atop Table Mountain overlooking Cape Town and Robbin Island, encounters with sub-tropical penguins, white shark expeditions to nearby False Bay and, later, more white sharks up the coast at Dyer Island. Included in the white shark photos are an "Air Jaws" sequence Elise shot that still makes him jealous!



Thursday (Jan. 16) club meeting speaker Ken Mostello will be telling us all about diving in Africa.

The excursions to both countries also featured lots of close-ups with the "Big 5" including some that were way too close for comfort.



"A leopard I shot in the grass on one of the safari runs Elise and I did in South Africa"



Ken and Elise having fun diving in Africa!



A message from our new president...

First, let me wish everyone a Happy New Year! Hope this year is a safe, enjoyable year for you and your family. Also, I hope it will be an enjoyable year of diving! I can't believe how fast the past year went by – the fun club dives, club outings, and great meetings with insightful speakers. For that, on behalf of this year's board, I want to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to last year's board. Their efforts helped move the club forward, and provided a good time to all members.

I'd like to welcome this year's board to what should be an exciting year. As a club, we are fortunate to have the dedicated members that have volunteered to serve as club officers this year. And as president, I feel extremely lucky to be sharing the board with these people. We've had a couple of meetings now to get the board up to speed, and begin planning the

year's activities. It may be early in the year, but there are already several activities planned, and some outstanding guest speakers on the agenda. We'll go through some of these during the first club meeting on the 16th, so bring your calendars with you so you can reserve the days.

In addition to what the board has on the agenda, we welcome your suggestions for activities, guest speakers, and dive suggestions. This is "your" club, and your suggestions will help make this year fun for everyone. Think of it this way... If there is something you want to do or see, there are probably several other members that are thinking the same way. Help us make that desire a reality by letting us know. And don't be afraid to let us know if we are doing something you don't like – that's important input also. If you don't want to voice your concerns in the meeting,

use the suggestion box. Just write down your comments and drop them in the box. This year I'll keep the suggestion box by the back door of the meeting room where your comments can be as confidential as you want. Consider this topic as a possible suggestion – This year we would like the club to sponsor one or more "warm weather, warm location" dive vacations. Where would you like to see this? Cost is always a concern, so what should we use as a cost threshold when planning such an event? And what about some social, non-dive related events? What works for you?????

I invite "you" to help make this an exciting year for the club. Together, we'll have diving fun this year!

Ken

New Board Members!

President: Ken

Kadaras

Vice President: Bob

Abraham

Treasurer: Janet

Abraham

Activities: Rich Atkins

Secretary: Liz Blair

Membership:

Marcelle Champagne

A Few Reminders and Key Points:

- Remember to **renew your club membership for this year!** (see our Feb. newsletter for perks and more details)
- Don't be shy, feel free to **bring along a guest** with you to a meeting or two to see how much fun we have and how many New England diving possibilities there really are!
- Also, feel free to **pass along a newsletter or two** to people you think would be interested in our club.
- If you **have a suggestion**, we have just the box for that at every meeting. Just pop in an anonymous note. *We WANT to hear from you!*
- And the most important thing: come have fun at **Slattery's on Jan. 16 (this Thursday) at 6:30PM!!!**





Don't forget to visit!
<http://www.uniteddivers.org>

For suggestions and/
or contributions to the
newsletter, Please
contact Liz Blair at
riccily@gmail.com



About Us

We at United Divers strive to promote the sport of scuba diving in a positive way. We are committed to educating our membership through the use of guest speakers, dive instructors, and club members. At each of our monthly meeting we have a special feature that we hope is interesting and entertaining.

For the newer divers, we offer both shore dives and boat dives. On these dives we have experienced divers act as their dive guide. Diving with experienced divers is a great way for a newer diver to "learn the ropes" without going through the frustration of learning the hard way.

For experienced divers looking for more than the typical shore or boat dive, the club organizes more challenging dives. We work on ideas that challenge the skills of the experienced diver and provide them with an enjoyable experience.

Non-members are always welcome to attend our monthly meetings and activities. Meetings are held once a month, on the third Thursday of each month.

Please feel free to stop in to a meeting, or if you would like membership information, please contact our [Membership Coordinator](#).

Find us on [Facebook](#).
Search for "United Divers of Central Massachusetts"

Monthly Meetings: 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of
each month at
SLATTERY'S, 106 Lunenburg Street, Fitchburg

January's Guest Speaker
Ken Mostello
An African Safari—Through the Lens

See you on Jan. 16!!!